DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 368 528 RC 019 547

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TITLE Walleye Warriors: An Effective Alliance against Racism and for the Earth.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-86571-257-3
PUB DATE 94
NOTE 287p.; Foreword by Winona LaDuke.
AVAILABLE FROM New Society Publishers, 4527 Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143 (paperback: ISBN-0-86571-257-3, $17.95 plus $2.50 shipping and handing; hardcover: ISBN-0-86571-256-5).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Activism; American Indian History; *Chippewa (Tribe); Consciousness Raising; *Conservation (Environment); Court Litigation; Cultural Pluralism; Politics; Public Opinion; *Racial Bias; *Treaties
IDENTIFIERS *Fishing Rights; Nonviolence; *Wisconsin (North)

ABSTRACT

Each spring when the ice clears, the Anishinabe (Chippewa) harvest fish from Wisconsin and Minnesota lakes. Their ancient subsistence fishing and hunting tradition is protected by treaties and reinforced by federal court rulings, but for years they were met by stones, racial epithets, and death threats hurled by local sports fishermen, resort and cottage owners, and other White neighbors. This book tells the story of how a multiracial alliance of Anishinabe, local residents, and activists defused these confrontations by witnessing and documenting them. The "walleye warriors" were successful at protecting Chippewa sovereignty and are continuing the struggle for environmental justice by striving to stop corporate attempts to mine (and so destroy) northern Wisconsin. In addition to tracing the events in these struggles, chapters also provide a brief history of the Anishinabe and discuss: (1) the development of anti-Indian backlash in Wisconsin in the mid-1980s (owing, in part, to the lack of education about American Indian history and culture in Wisconsin public schools); (2) training of nonviolent "witnesses"; (3) one activist's "leadership training"--learning about activist politics from family, friends, and tribal governments; (4) parallels to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s; (5) Indian treaty rights as a tool against mining interests; (6) reconciliation--respect for cultural differences and finding common ground; (7) Anishinabe leadership today; and (8) sustainable economic development. Contains 89 references, an index, political cartoons, photographs, and lists of publications and organizations related to indigenous resistance. (SV)

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